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1850

# Report of the School Committee of Bath, for the Year Ending March, 1850.

Bath (Me.)

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**R E P O R T**

**OF THE**

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

**OF**

**B A T H ,**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1850.**

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**B A T H :**  
**GEO. E. NEWMAN, PRINTER.**



# R E P O R T .

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THEIR duties being closed, the School Committee for the year 1849-50 present their Report,—and, in doing so, are happy that they are able to congratulate their fellow citizens on the generally favorable condition of the Schools which have been under their care. None of them are yet, in all respects, what they might be,—but most of them have improved, and all invite the continuance of an anxious and fostering regard. Important changes in some of them have rendered the past year an era in their history, and imposed increased responsibilities on the Committee. The care of Schools is never an inconsiderable work. Here, as in all large communities, it involves a vast amount of solicitude and labor, and requires, really, much more time than it has been in the power of this Committee to bestow. They have done what they could, and, in no instance, have intentionally neglected the most obvious duties of their office. And yet, reviewing their labors, they cannot but feel, while unconscious that they have fallen below any of their predecessors in this respect, that the most they have done is much less than the highest welfare of our Schools requires—and less than it would be plainly for the interest of our city—even on the score of economy—to demand. In such a community as ours, it is in the power of no three individuals—or of a less or greater number—engaged in other pursuits, demanding their time

and thoughts, to devote that attention to Schools which is essential to their greatest efficiency and success. Even the very lowest degree of attention, that will bear to be called faithfulness, must summon such from other duties to an extent, and require an amount of time and labor, for which what would be deemed a liberal compensation must fail to remunerate them. In no other department of the City's service for which compensation is rendered at all, it is believed, is there so much that must be done beyond all the compensation ever here allowed, as by those who, in any appreciation of their duties, undertake the charge of the schools. In no way, therefore, we are persuaded, can the amount of service be secured, which—so numerous and so likely to increase as they now are—our Schools require, except by the appointment of some competent person at a fair salary, who shall devote his whole time to them:—a *Superintendent of Schools*. Acting in conjunction with a Committee, who should elect Teachers and stand as a Council of reference or appeal, such an one could not only visit the Schools as often as necessary, but could look, also, after the large number of scholars who should be, but are not, in them, and attend, in such manner as the interests concerned demand, to the entire school affairs of the City. The committee would respectfully suggest for the consideration of the City Council, the expediency of electing such an officer. We have a "Superintendent of Streets"—and a "Superintendent of Burials." Surely, is it not important to provide as effectual a supervision for the children growing up in our midst, as for the streets in which so many of them waste their time? Is it not as important to see that, living, they are well educated as that, dead, they are decently buried?